

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Planning Workshop (Meeting 3)
November 23rd, 2002

United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior

MEETING LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL
73-510 Fred Waring
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, Nov. 23rd, 2002
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm

LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC)

GARY WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation
TERRY HENDERSON, Councilmember, City of LaQuinta
ROBERT BROCKMAN, Planning Director, City of Rancho Mirage
BUFORD CRITES, Councilmember and former Mayor, City of Palm Desert
LARRY GRAFTON, Senior Planner, City of Indian Wells
BARBARA GONZALES LYONS, Vice Chair, Tribal Council, Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
BILL HAVERT, Director, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
JEFFREY MORGAN, Sierra Club, Local Conservation Organization
EDWARD KIBBEY, Building Industry Association
BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside
RUTH WATLING, Chair, Pinyon Community Council
BARY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief, resident of Cathedral City
FRANK BOGERT, former Mayor, City of Palm Springs

Absent:

ALLAN MUTH, expertise in natural science and research, University of California, Riverside, Deep Canyon Research Center
ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Winter Park Authority

STAFF AND PRESENTERS:

DANELLA GEORGE, Designated Federal Official and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager
LAURIE ROSENTHAL, USDA Forest Service, District Ranger - San Jacinto Ranger District
CONNELL DUNNING, BLM Community Planner
BONNIE ADKINS, BLM Visitor Services
SHEILA BARNETT, BLM Administrative Assistant
AUSTIN McINERNEY, California Center for Public Dispute Resolution
DAVE CEPPOS, California Center for Public Dispute Resolution

WORKSHOP AGENDA

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION (Ed Kibbey)

Welcome and introduction of BLM and USFS staff present. Chairman Kibbey also introduced the staff from the California Center for Public Dispute Resolution who have been selected to assist the MAC and BLM/USFS with the monument planning process.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from prior meeting were not reviewed because minutes were not completed yet. Meeting minutes from October 5th will be reviewed at next meeting on December 7th.

HOUSEKEEPING, REVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING

Update about Deep Canyon Field Trip. Field trip will occur on December 11th. Coordination with Al Muth will occur when he returns from chasing lizards.

Update about confirmation of Monument Advisory Committee members for the upcoming new-year (2003). The current meeting is a planning workshop during which formal recommendations will be provided by the MAC to the federal agencies. Thus, the MAC members whose terms are officially expired are allowed and encouraged to participate. Ms. George will continue to coordinate with the Washington Office to expedite the reappointment process.

Update of public scoping period. Additional public scoping comments received between June 1st and October 15th were compiled into a summary document, which was distributed at the meeting. One new item brought forward concerned proposed wilderness in area near Dunn Rd. south of existing wilderness within the Monument. BLM and USFS working together to inventory the area and determine feasibility of creating new wilderness as proposed. A presentation by Monument staff regarding Wilderness criteria and inventory process at the Dec. 7th meeting was requested.

Update regarding recent meeting with BLM Resource Advisory Committees (RAC). A few MAC members attended a meeting in Sacramento, California at which a number of statewide BLM RACs were present. The MAC has a different charge than most RACs and funding has been scarce for additional committee support and development. The State BLM Director will continue to work with RACs to develop capacity and provide leadership.

MEETING FACILITATION (Dave Ceppos and Austin McInerny)

Mr. Ceppos provided a brief overview of the California Center for Public Dispute Resolution and stressed that he and Mr. McInerny were honored to be selected to work with the MAC. Mrs. Ceppos and McInerny will assist BLM/USFS staff and the MAC to prepare the MAC's advice and suggestions in a format this will be easily integrated into the resource management and environmental impact analysis documents required by law.

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Mr. Ceppos presented a handout primer titled “Alternatives Development for a Monument Resource Management Plan” and provided a brief overview of the planning process.

BREAKOUT EXERCISE

The facilitators split the workshop attendees into four groups to increase discussions during an exercise in developing project objectives and action tasks. Following the exercise, each group presented their respective objective statements and discussed what challenges and frustrations they experienced.

LUNCH BREAK

PUBLIC COMMENT

12:59 pm – 1:04 pm. Don Abel, President, Desert Riders.

Request to not close the trails. The Advisory Committee is very important for providing input. It is important for the group to monitor input. Impressed with those who spend the time and effort to be a part of such a committee. Nancy Stacey was unable to attend this meeting but will be in attendance at the December 7th meeting. Examples from Juno, Alaska include upwards of 10 to 12,000 tourists per day with a county funded program, an executive director, and a staff of 12 to build trails for multiple use to take pressure off of heavily used trails.

1:06 pm – 1:11 pm. Karl McCarthur, Univ. of California Cooperative Extension Interested in linking theory to practice. Important to learn the process. Have experts help with legal, demographics studies, scientific, political help where needed to fill in holes. Important to establish viable alternatives. Try to think outside the box. Large policy issues can rise out of a bottom up approach in discussing local issues.

MEETING FACILITATION (Dave Ceppos and Austin McInerny)

Mr. McInerny presented an overview of the work that remains for the MAC to consolidate and refine its advice regarding managing the Monument. In particular, the MAC must provide clear and detailed suggestions as to the type and range of activities that should be permitted and prohibited within the Monument. Staff will take use this advice to develop a draft management plan and environmental compliance document. These draft documents will then be presented to the MAC in February 2003 for review and comment. To expedite this process, Mr. McInerny facilitated the MAC during a review of the “Issue Statements”. As a result of this review, the MAC consolidated and revised the statements and provided additional direction regarding a number of specific objectives and actions that they would like to see staff further develop. In the end, the following revised statements were developed:

- How can the Monument provide multiple recreation opps while balancing the protection and preservation of cultural resources, biological, geological, educational, and scientific values?
- How will the monument monitor current and future use and modify

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management strategies as appropriate?

- How do we provide education, interpretation and information, to allow for the use and enjoyment of the Monument?
- How will the Monument address private property rights including, utilities and rights-of-ways.
- How will the Monument maintain motorized and non-motorized trails, and structures?
- How can the monument work with Caltrans to provide safe passage for vehicles use through monument on hwy 74 while also providing safe interpretive opportunities along the highway?
- How can the monument manage and control pests, including exotic and invasive species and noxious weeds?
- How will public safety be coordinated within the Monument?

A more complete accounting of the discussion and the suggested additional objectives is presented in a separate memo.

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The December 7th, 2002 meeting will continue to outline and fine tune the Monument Advisory committee input to the federal agencies regarding content for the Monument plan. Jeff Morgan will also provide a brief presentation regarding lands trade opportunities. Selection of a new MAC Chairperson and Co-chair will also occur as well as scheduling for 2003 committee meetings.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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